

Maryland Oyster Overview

Oyster Advisory Commission Meeting

July 11, 2016

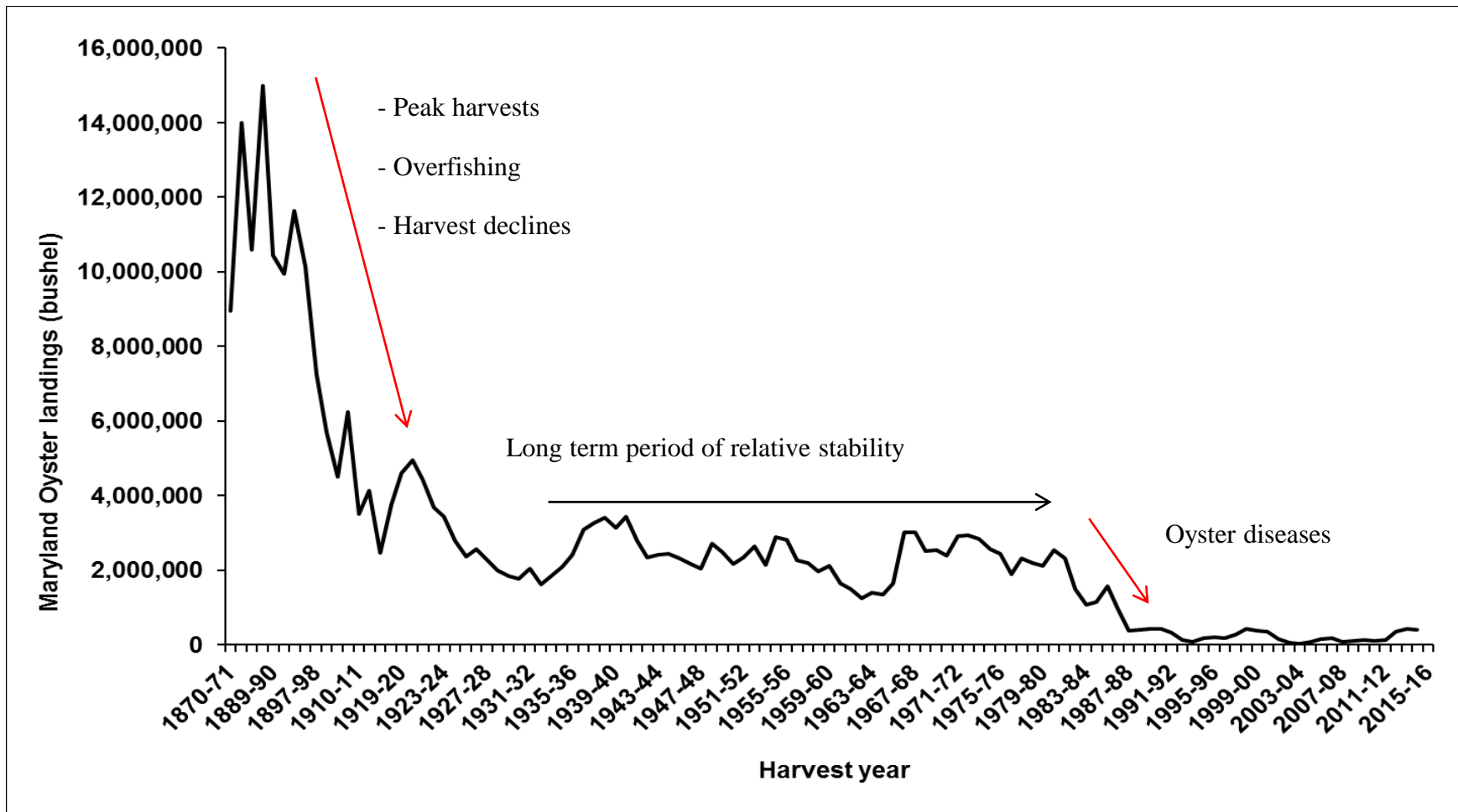
1) Status of Resource and Industry

2) Oyster Management Areas

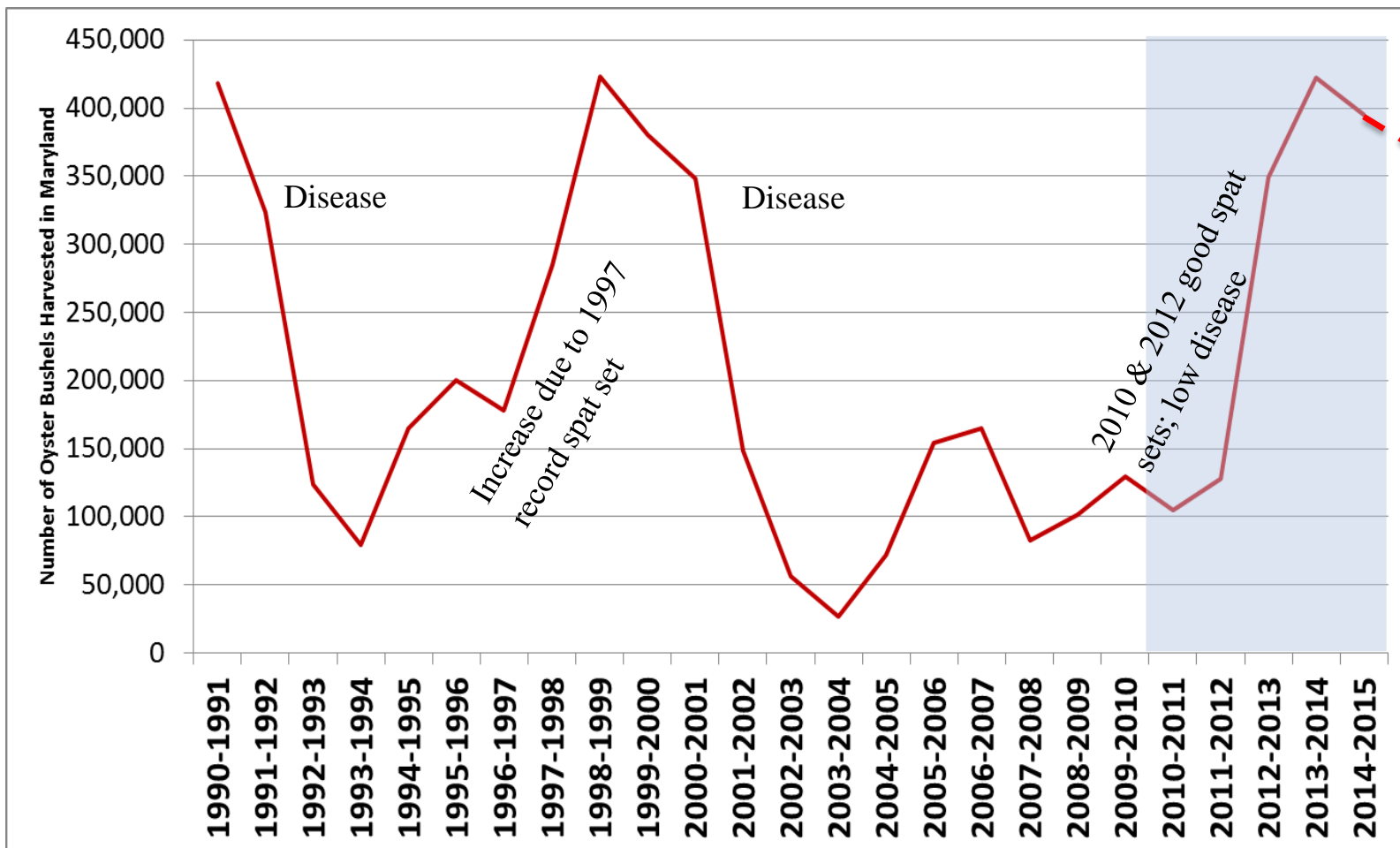
- Public Shellfish Fishery
- Aquaculture
- Sanctuaries



Status of the Resource and Industry - Historic



Status of the Resource and Industry - Current



Harvest decline underway due to lack of strong recruitment after 2012

Three Oyster Management Areas



Public Shellfish Fishery Areas:
Areas reserved for commercial harvest



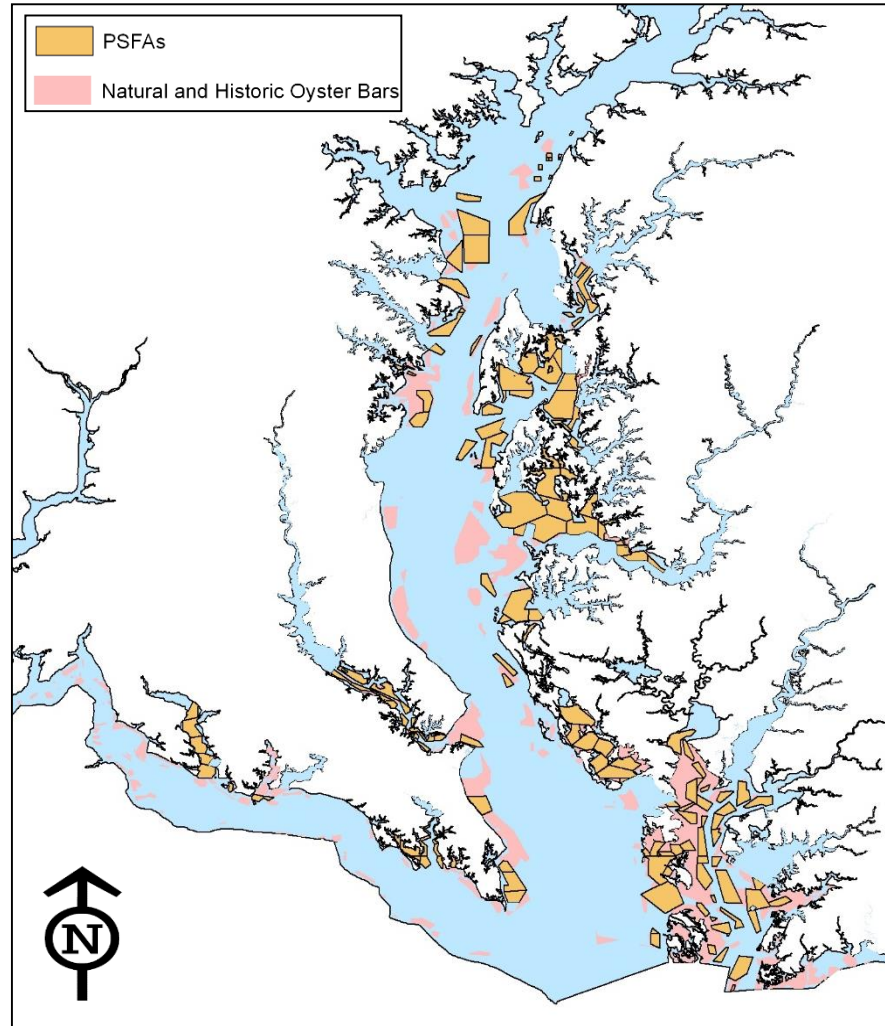
Aquaculture:
Areas leased for private production of oysters and clams



Sanctuaries:
Areas closed to harvest, with goals to enhance the ecological function of the population, preserve broodstock, and foster disease resistance.

Oyster Management Areas – Public Shellfish Fishery Areas

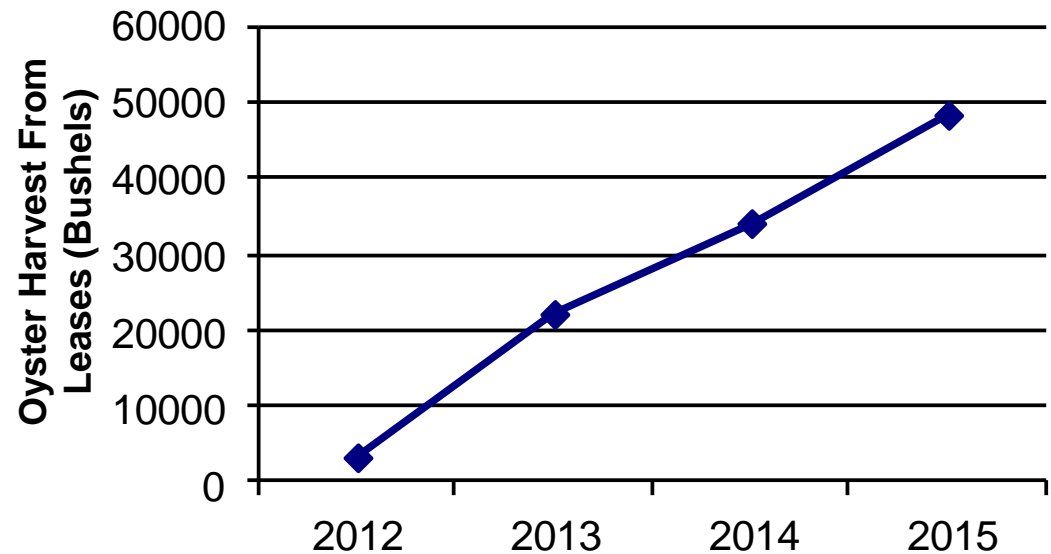
Fishery areas represent **76 percent** of available oyster bottom, which contain 50 percent of the “best bars.”



Oyster Management Areas – Aquaculture

Most shellfish harvested worldwide are produced by aquaculture.

Maryland's aquaculture industry is on the rise!



% Acreage by County

Lease Type	AA	CA	CH	DO	KE	QA	SM	SO	TA	WI	WO	Total Acres
Bottom Leases	6%	2%	0%	40%	1%	1%	12%	9%	11%	16%	3%	5,379
Water Column Leases	1%	5%	0%	30%	1%	4%	34%	9%	2%	0%	14%	281
Total	6%	2%	0%	39%	1%	1%	13%	9%	10%	15%	3%	5,660

% Number of Leases by County

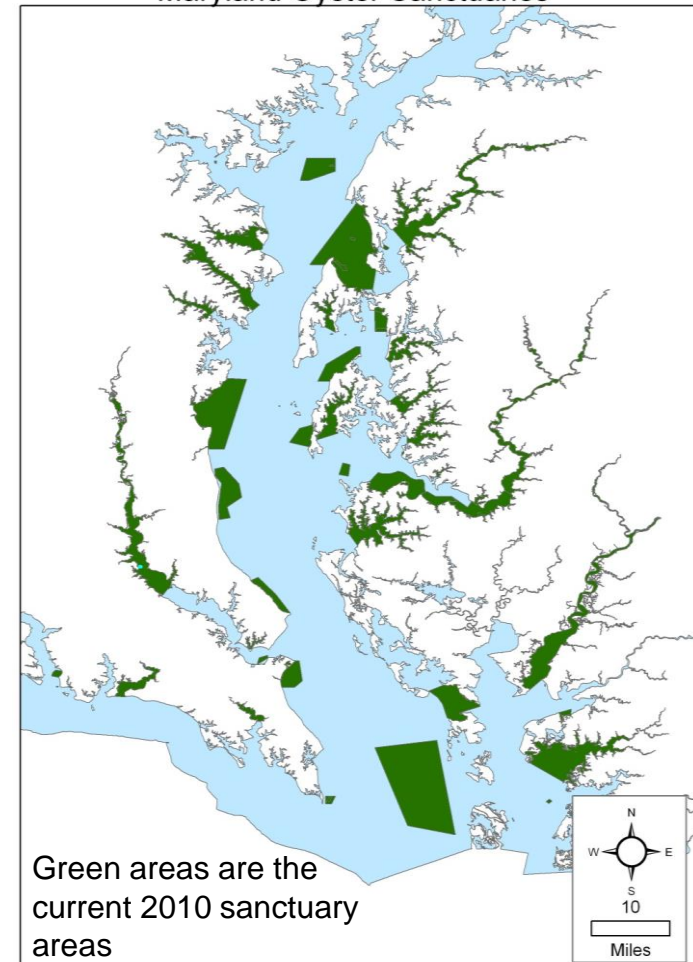
Lease Type	AA	CA	CH	DO	KE	QA	SM	SO	TA	WI	WO	Total # Leases
Bottom Leases	8%	4%	0%	22%	0%	2%	21%	8%	18%	14%	3%	306
Water Column Leases	3%	3%	0%	28%	2%	3%	36%	9%	2%	0%	14%	64
Total	7%	4%	0%	23%	1%	2%	24%	8%	15%	11%	5%	370

Oyster Management Areas – Sanctuaries

Sanctuaries represent the **24 percent** of available oyster bottom, which contain 50 percent of the “best bars.” Sanctuaries are closed to commercial harvest in order to:

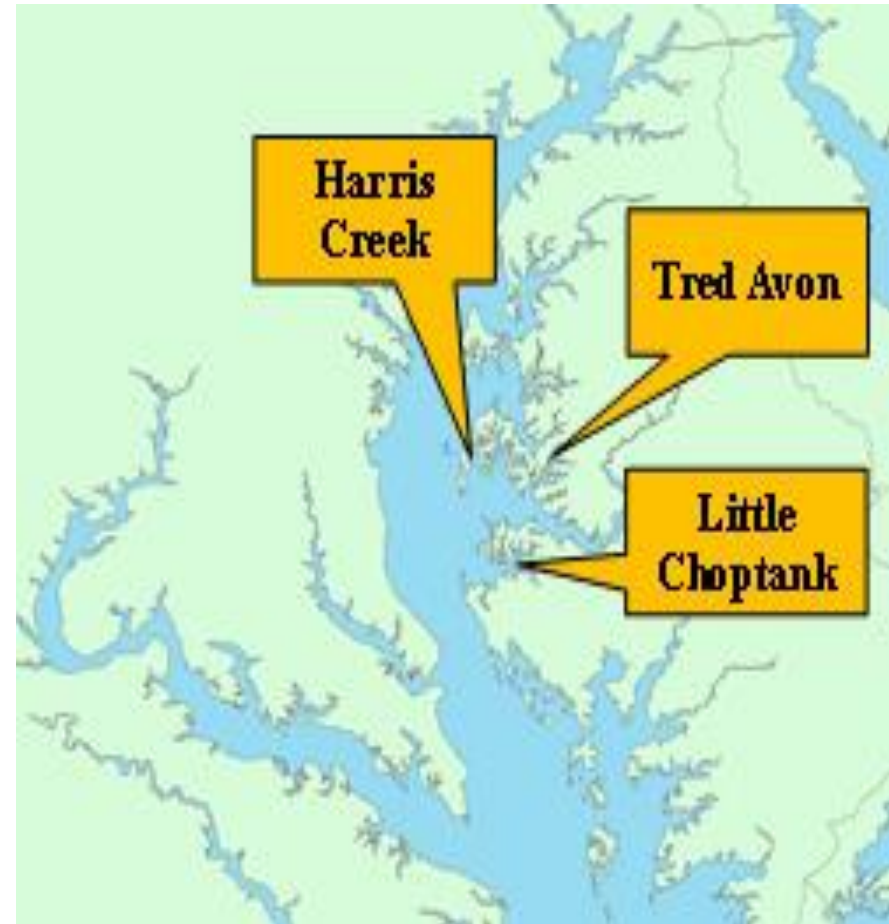
1. Preserve and enhance the ecological contributions of oyster reefs,
2. Expand broodstock to enhance spat set, and
3. Provide an opportunity for the oyster population to develop disease resistance

Maryland Oyster Sanctuaries



Oyster Management Areas – Sanctuaries: Large-Scale Restoration

- The states of Maryland and Virginia, with our federal and local partners, are implementing a scientifically based large-scale oyster reef restoration program in 10 Chesapeake Bay tributaries
- Three of the five tributaries to be restored in Maryland underway



US Army Corps of Engineers

Oyster Management Areas – Sanctuaries: Harris Creek



Initial restoration of Harris Creek was completed in 2015

- 390.5 acres restored
- 2.07 billion spat planted
- 3-year monitoring of initial areas planted in 2012 completed

Oyster Restoration

Video of restored areas:

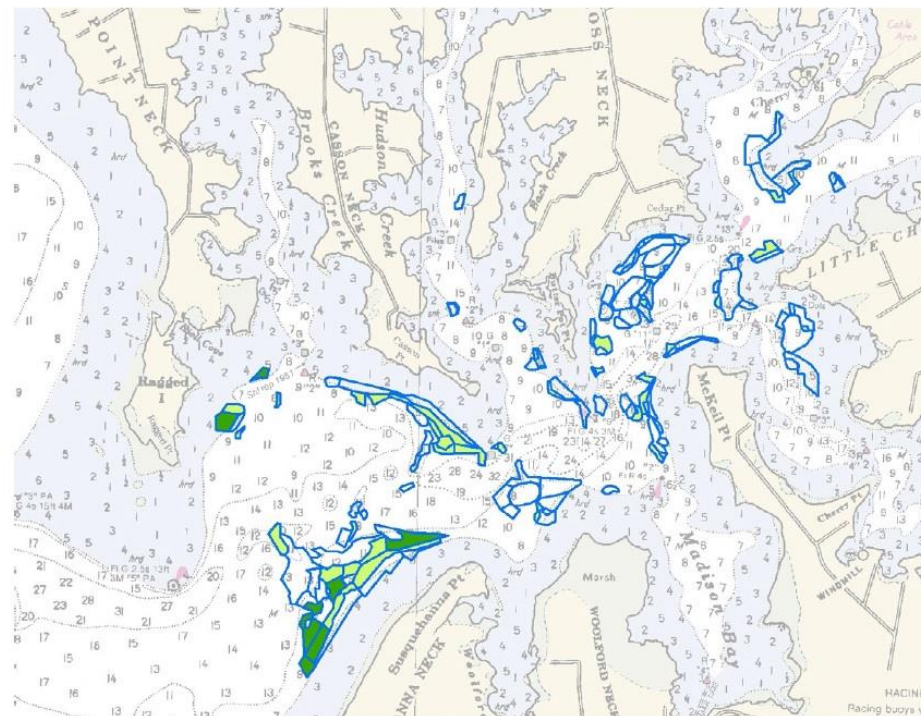
<http://www.chesapeakebay.noaa.gov/images/stories/habitats/under-water-oyster-video-12816.mp4>


Before


After

Oyster Management Areas – Sanctuaries: Little Choptank

Restoration Sites in the Little Choptank River



 Initial restoration complete

 Initial restoration partly complete

 Planned restoration

Restoration Plan:

- 400 acres to be restored
- 1.9 billion spat to be planted
- 314,600 cubic yards of reef building substrate to be planted

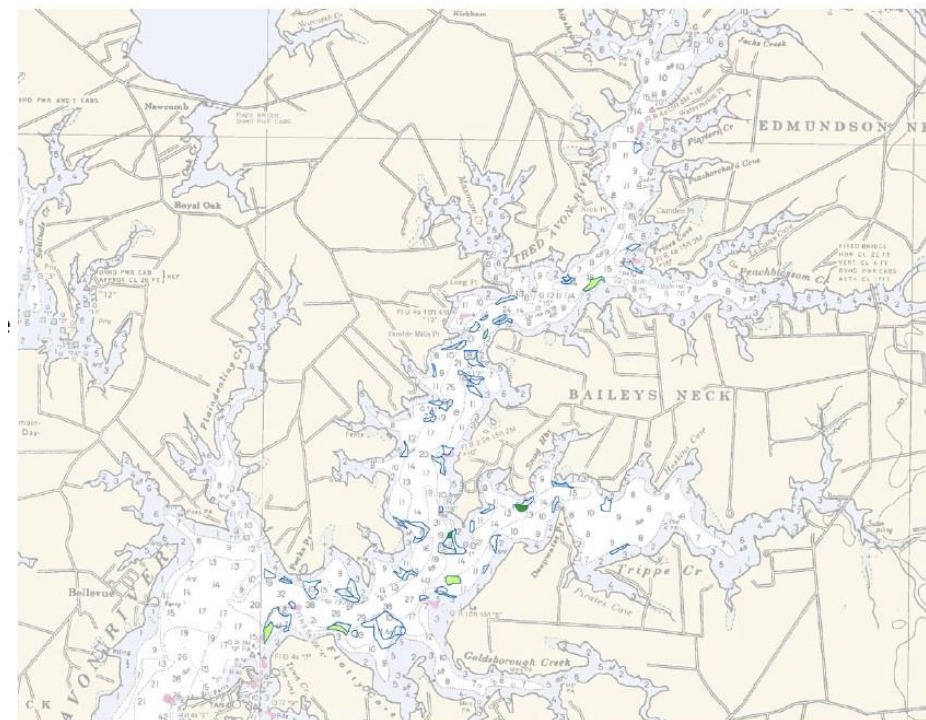
Current Status (2015):

- 45.8 acres have been constructed
- 102.6 acres have been partially constructed
- 222.1 million spat already planted
- Shallow water permit delayed



Oyster Management Areas – Sanctuaries: Tred Avon

Restoration Sites in the Tred Avon River



Initial restoration
complete

Initial restoration
partly complete

Planned
restoration

Restoration Plan:

- 147 acres to be restored
- 666.1 million spat to be planted
- 119,499 cubic yards of reef building substrate to be planted

Current Status (2015):

- 2.6 acres have been constructed
- 16 acres have been partially constructed
- 10.18 million spat already planted
- 8 acres to be constructed delayed
- Environmental Assessment for shallow water construction underway

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Questions?

